Case 2:11-cv-00958-PMP-CWH $\,$ Document 51 $\,$ Filed 02/07/12 $\,$ Page 1 of 8 $\,$ 1 Marni Rubin-Watkins, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 9674 2 FIDELITY NATIONAL LAW GROUP 2450 St. Rose Pkwy., Ste. 150 3 Henderson, Nevada 89074 Telephone: (702) 667-3000 Fax: (702) 697-2020 4 Email: marni.watkins@fnf.com Attorneys for Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation 5 6 7 8 9 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF NEVADA 10 11 MILLIE ESPOSITO, an individual, Case No. 2:11-cv-00958-PMO-RJJ 12 Plaintiff, VS. 13 FEDERAL HOME LOAN MARIE HEILBERG, an individual, PATRICIA 14 ANN BASCOM, an individual, LAWYERS TITLE) MORTGAGE CORPORATION'S OF NEVADA, INC., a Nevada corporation, MOTION TO DEEM REQUESTS PAULA L. DIFULVO, an individual, NATIONAL FOR ADMISSIONS ADMITTED 15 ALLIANCE TITLE COMPANY, a Nevada corporation, TAYLOR, BEAN AND WHITAKER, 16 a Nevada corporation, SUNTRUST MORTGAGE, 17 INC., a Nevada corporation, FEDERAL HOME LOAN MORTGAGE CORPORATION, a governmental or business entity, form unknown, 18 DOE individuals, I-X, inclusive; ROE business entities XI-XX, inclusive, 19 20 Defendants. 21 22 23 FEDERAL HOME LOAN MORTGAGE COPRORATION'S MOTION TO DEEM 24 REQUESTS FOR ADMISSIONS ADMITTED 25 NOW COMES, Defendant FEDERAL HOME LOAN MORTGAGE CORPORATION'S 26 ("FHLMC"), by and through their attorneys of record FIDELITY NATIONAL LAW GROUP, 27 pursuant to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, specifically Rules 36, and for the reasons set 28 Page 1 of 8

Fidelity National Law Group 2450 St. Rose Pkwy., Ste. 150 Ienderson, Nevada 89074 (702) 667-3000

1	conversation was	confirmed in a correspondence	ce dated January 3, 2012	. See Exhibit A
---	------------------	-------------------------------	--------------------------	-----------------

- Correspondence dated January 3, 2012.
- 3 7. Because of the extension on Plaintiff's responses to discovery, I moved Plaintiff's deposition to January 31, 2012. See Exhibit B, Amended Notice of Deposition. 4
- 5 On January 13, 2012, Ashley from Plaintiff's counsel's office contacted my paralegal,
- 6 Jennifer O'Brien, and asked for an additional extension to respond to our discovery requests. We
- 7 agreed to an extension until January 23, 2012. This was confirmed in an email. See Exhibit C,
 - Email dated January 13, 2012.
- 9 9. During the January 13, 2012 phone call, my paralegal, with me standing next to her, made 10 it clear that this would be the last extension as we need to move forward with discovery and
- 11 Plaintiff's deposition.

2

8

- The morning of January 24, 2012, I checked my voicemail and heard a message from 12 10.
- Plaintiff's counsel that was left after I had left the office on January 23, 2012, stating that she 13
- 14 cannot get me the responses and assumes that an additional extension is acceptable.
- 15 Upon receiving Plaintiff's counsel's voicemail message, I called Plaintiff's counsel's 11.
- 16 office and asked to speak with Elizabeth Ashley. I was told she was unavailable and to leave a
- 17 message. I did so and followed up this message with a correspondence stating that an extension
- 18 was not acceptable and that she should email me her responses that day. See Exhibit D, Email
- 19 dated January 24, 2012.
- 20 12. I never received a response.
- 21 13. On January 31, 2012, I called the Ashley Law Group a second time and asked to speak
- 22 with Elizabeth Ashley. I was told that she was unavailable and to leave a message.
- 14. I left a message asking her to call me back pursuant to Local Rule 26-7 regarding her 24 responses to FHLMC's discovery.
- 25 This message was followed-up by a correspondence requesting responses on or before 15.
- Friday February 2, 2012 and stating that the Requests for Admissions are deemed admitted and 26
- 27 all objections are waived. See Exhibit E, Correspondence dated January 31, 2012.
 - On February 2, 2012, I received an email from the Ashley Law Group attaching the 16.

23

28

discovery responses including their late responses to FHLMC's Requests for Admissions. There 1 was no explanation or apology. See Exhibit F, February 2, 2012 email. 2 Plaintiff's failure to timely respond to FHLMC's requests for admissions has mandated 3 17. Court intervention in order to proceed. 4 5 FURTHER YOUR AFFIANT SAYETH NAUGHT. 6 7 MARNI RUBIN WATKINS, ESQ. 8 SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me 9 This 7th day of February, 2012. 10 11 Appt No 93-12**50-1** PUBLIC in and for said State and County. 12 13 MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES 14 15 I. INTRODUCTION AND FACTS 16 On November 18, 2011, counsel for FHLMC, served Plaintiff's counsel with Defendant's 17 First Set of Requests for Admissions, attached hereto as Exhibit G, First Set of Interrogatories, 18 attached hereto as Exhibit H, First Set of Requests for Production, attached hereto as Exhibit I. 19 The following Requests for Admissions were set forth therein: 20 REQUEST NO. 1 21 Admit that Carmen Esposito was responsible for your household finances prior to his 22 passing in May of 2007. 23 24 REQUEST NO. 2 Admit that Marie Heilberg is your daughter. 25 REQUEST NO. 3 26 Admit that you never had any communications with anyone from Federal Home Loan 27

28

Mortgage Corporation/Freddie Mac.

Case 2:11-cv-00958-PMP-CWH Document 51 Filed 02/07/12 Page 5 of 8

REQ	UEST	NO	. 4

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

Admit that any communications that you had regarding the subject loan was by and between your attorney and Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation's attorney.

REQUEST NO. 5

Admit you deferred all of the household finances and business dealings to your husband while he was alive.

REQUEST NO. 6

Admit you deferred all of the household finances and business dealings to your daughter Marie Heilberg after your husband passed away.

REQUEST NO. 7

Admit that you authorized Marie Heilberg to act as your agent regarding all household finances.

REQUEST NO. 8

Admit that you knew Marie Heilberg was making payments on the Taylor Bean & Whitaker loan for approximately one year.

Plaintiff's responses to the discovery requests, including the Requests for Admissions were due on December 18, 2011.

On December 1, 2011, FHLMC sent Plaintiff their Second Set of Requests for Production and Second Set of Interrogatories. On November 12, 2012, FHLMC noticed Plaintiff's deposition for January 5, 2012, expecting to have received Plaintiff's responses to FHLMC's discovery by that date.

On or about December 14, 2011, Plaintiff's counsel contacted counsel for FHLMC and asked for an extension to respond to FHLMC's discovery requests. Counsel for FHLMC agreed to grant this extension but explained to Plaintiff's counsel that Plaintiff's deposition would need to be moved as receipt of these discovery responses is necessary prior to proceeding with Plaintiff's deposition. An extension until January 3, 2012, was agreed upon by both parties.

On January 3, 2012, Plaintiff's counsel contacted counsel for FHLMC yet again and requested an additional extension to respond to FHLMC's discovery requests. The extension

18¹

was reluctantly granted until January 17, 2012. This conversation was confirmed in a correspondence dated January 3, 2012. See Exhibit A, Correspondence dated January 3, 2012. Because of the extension on Plaintiff's responses to discovery, Plaintiff's deposition was moved to January 31, 2012. See Exhibit B, Amended Notice of Deposition.

On January 13, 2012, Ashley from Plaintiff's counsel's office contacted Jennifer O'Brien, the paralegal at defense counsel's office and asked for an additional extension to respond to FHLMC's discovery requests. FHLMC's counsel agreed to an extension until January 23, 2012. This was confirmed in an email. *See* Exhibit C, Email dated January 13, 2012. During the January 13, 2012 phone call Jennifer O'Brien made it clear to Plaintiff's counsel that this would be the last extension as we need to move forward with discovery and Plaintiff's deposition.

On the morning of January 24, 2012, counsel for FHLMC received a voicemail from Plaintiff's counsel stating that she cannot get me the responses and that she presumes that an additional extension is acceptable. Upon receiving Plaintiff's counsel's voicemail message, counsel for FHLMC called Plaintiff's counsel's office and asked to speak with Elizabeth Ashley, Esq. The secretary at Ms. Ashley's office informed counsel for FHLMC that Ms. Ashley was unavailable and to leave a message. Defense counsel left a message and followed up this message with a correspondence stating that an extension was not acceptable and that she should email me her responses that day. *See* Exhibit D, Email dated January 24, 2012.

Plaintiff failed to respond to the First Set of Requests for Admissions, the First Set of Interrogatories, the First Set of Requests for Production, the Second Set of Interrogatories and the Second Set of Requests for Production.

On January 31, 2012, counsel for FHLMC called the Ashley Law Group a second time and asked to speak with Elizabeth Ashley, Esq. The secretary at Plaintiff's office informed defense counsel that Ms. Ashley was not available and to leave a message. Defense counsel left a message stating that the call was pursuant to Local Rule 26-7 and regarding her responses to FHLMC's discovery. This message was followed-up by a correspondence requesting responses on or before Friday February 2, 2012 and stating that the Requests for Admissions are deemed admitted and all objections are waived. *See* Exhibit E, Correspondence dated January 31,

2012.

As set forth above, Plaintiff has failed to timely respond the FHLMC's Requests for Admissions. Therefore, as discussed below, the Requests for Admissions should be deemed admitted. Additionally, Plaintiff has failed to respond to FHLMC's First Set of Interrogatories, First Set of Requests for Production, Second Set of Interrogatories, and Second Set of Requests for Production. Therefore, as discussed below, an order compelling Plaintiff's responses should be issued as well as payment of the attorney's fees and costs incurred in trying to obtain these responses.

II. LAW AND ARGUMENT

Plaintiff's Requests for Admissions Should Be Deemed Admitted

Plaintiff's Requests for Admissions should be deemed admitted. Fed. R. Civ. P. 36(a)(3) provides as follows:

A matter is admitted unless, within 30 days after being served, the party to whom the request is directed serves on the requesting party a written answer or objection addressed to the matter and signed by the party or its attorney. A shorter or longer time for responding may be stipulated to under Rule 29 or be ordered by the court.

Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 36(b), the matters are "conclusively established" for purposes of this action. Fed. R. Civ. P. 36(b). See also Layton v. International Ass'n of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, 285 Fed. Appx. 340 (9th Cir. 2008) ("There is no dispute that Layton did not respond on time; the facts were thus admitted without the need for any further action by the court or the parties."); Conlon v. United States, 474 F.3d 616, 621 (9th Cir. 2007) ("Unanswered requests for admissions may be relied on as the basis for granting summary judgment.").

The Requests for Admissions were served on November 18, 2011. FHLMC granted Plaintiff a number of extensions to respond to these Requests for Admissions. The final extension set the deadline for Plaintiff's responses on January 23, 2012. Plaintiff and/or her Attorney have failed to respond to FHLMC's First Set of Requests for Admissions. Therefore the fact that (1) Carmen Esposito was responsible for Plaintiff's household finances prior to his passing in May of 2007; (2) Maria Heilberg is Plaintiff's daughter; (3) Plaintiff never had any

Case 2:11-cv-00958-PMP-CWH Document 51 Filed 02/07/12 Page 8 of 8

communications with anyone from Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation/Freddie Mac.; (4) Any communications Plaintiff had regarding the subject loan was by and between Plaintiff's attorney and Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation's attorney; (5) Plaintiff deferred all of the household finances and business dealing to your husband while he was alive; (6) Plaintiff deferred all of the household finances and business dealings to her daughter Maria Heilberg after Plaintiff's husband passed away; (7) Plaintiff authorized Maria Heilberg to act as Plaintiff's agent regarding all household finances; (8) Plaintiff knew that Maria Heilberg was making payments on the Taylor Bean & Whitaker loan for approximately one year should be deemed admitted for purposes of this case.

III. CONCLUSION

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

27

28

For the foregoing reasons, FHLMC respectfully requests that this Court enter an order

that FHLMC's Requests for Admissions are deemed admitted.

DATED this 7th day of February, 2012.

FIDELITY NATIONAL LAW GROUP

Marni Rubin-Watkins, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 9674 2450 St. Rose Pkwy., Ste. 150 Henderson, Nevada 89074

Attorneys for Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I electronically transmitted the foregoing FEDERAL HOME LOAN

MORTGAGE CORPORATION'S MOTION TO DEEM REQUESTS FOR ADMISSIONS

ADMITTED to the Clerk's Office using the CM/ECF System for filing and transmittal of a

Notice of Electronic Filing to all parties listed as CM/ECF registrants, or to the following non-

registrants by U.S. Mail, on the date below shown.

Elizabeth S. Ashley, Esq.

ASHLEY LAW GROUP, INC.

1880 E. Warm Springs Rd., Ste. 130

Las Vegas, Nevada 89119

26 Attorney for *Plaintiff*

DATED: 27.2012

An employee of Fidelity National Law Group

Fidelity National Law Group 2450 St. Rose Pkwy., Ste. 150 Henderson, Nevada 89074 (702) 667-3000